

In the Claims:

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) An implantable medical electrical lead, comprising:
 - an elongated lead body having a proximal end and terminating at a distal end wall,
 - a conductor extending from the proximal end of the elongated body toward the distal end wall,
 - an electrode connected to the distal end wall of the elongated body, the electrode being adapted for stimulating myocardial tissue via intimate contact with the tissue
 - the electrode being electrically coupled to the conductor,
 - the electrode comprising a conductive structure having a first, interior surface defining a closed cavity within the electrode and having a second, exterior surface, wherein the first, interior surface of the conductive structure defines a first electrode surface;
 - an insulative housing wrapping around the second, exterior surface of the conductive structure and having a port that circumscribes an area of the second, exterior surface of the conductive structure to define a second electrode surface;
 - an ionically conductive fluid medium filling the cavity and being in intimate contact with the first electrode surface; and
 - an insulated helical fixation member coupled to the insulative housing and extending distally therefrom;
 - wherein, when a current is delivered, via the conductor, to the electrode, a first current density is generated at the first electrode surface and a second current density is generated at the second electrode surface, the first current density being smaller than the second current density; and
 - when the helical fixation member is engaged in tissue, the second electrode surface forms a high impedance and low polarization tissue-stimulating electrode.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously presented) The lead of claim 1, wherein the second electrode surface is approximately flush with the port.

4. (Previously presented) The lead of claim 1, wherein the second electrode surface protrudes from the port.

5. (Previously presented) The lead of claim 4, wherein the second electrode surface is adapted to pierce tissue when the helical fixation member is engaged in tissue.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The lead of claim 1, wherein the conductive structure formed within the cavity comprises a proximal extension of the helical fixation member.

8. (Previously presented) The lead of claim 1, wherein the conductive structure comprises a stud joining the helical fixation member to the conductor.

9. (Previously presented) The lead of claim 1, wherein the port of the insulative housing has a cross-sectional area between approximately 0.1 square millimeters and 4.0 square millimeters.

10. (Previously presented) The lead of claim 1, wherein the first electrode surface of the conductive structure is approximately greater than or equal to approximately 10 square millimeters.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously presented) The lead of claim 1, wherein the ionically conductive medium filling the cavity comprises a hydrogel.

15. (Previously presented) The lead of claim 1, wherein the ionically conductive medium filling the cavity comprises a saline solution.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously presented) The lead of claim 1, wherein the electrode surface of the conductive structure comprises platinum black particles.

18. (Previously presented) The lead of claim 1, wherein the conductive structure comprises an iridium-oxide.

19. (Previously presented) The lead of claim 1, wherein the conductive structure comprises a ruthenium-oxide.

20. (Previously presented) The lead of claim 1, wherein the conductive structure comprises titanium-nitride.

21. (Previously presented) The lead of claim 1, further comprising a steroid-loaded MCRD formed about the insulative housing in proximity to the port.

22. (Previously presented) The lead of claim 1, wherein the insulated helical fixation member comprises an oxide-coated tantalum.

23. (Currently Amended) An implantable medical electrical lead, comprising:

an elongated body including a proximal end, a distal end, and a conductor extending from the proximal end toward the distal end; and

~~an~~ differential current density electrode means at the distal end of the elongated body adapted for (1) defining a first electrode surface and a second electrode surface, (2) delivering pacing stimulation to myocardial tissue via intimate contact with the second electrode surface, and ~~a surface of the electrode, the electrode including:~~ means, including ~~a first electrode surface on the electrode in contact with an ionically conductive medium and a second electrode surface on the electrode adapted to be brought into contact with tissue, for~~ (2) producing a first current density at the first electrode surface and a second current density at the second electrode surface, when a current is delivered via the conductor ~~to the electrode~~, wherein the first current density is smaller than the second current density so that the second electrode surface forms a high impedance and low polarization stimulating electrode; and

fixation means for affixing the second electrode surface in contact with myocardial tissue.

24. (Currently Amended) The lead of claim 23, wherein the differential current density electrode means ~~for producing a first current density at a first electrode surface and a second current density at a second electrode surface~~ comprises:

a conductive structure defining a closed cavity distally of distal end wall of the elongated body and electrically coupled to the conductor, the cavity being enclosed by the first electrode surface;

an insulative housing overlaying the conductive structure and having a port to circumscribe and thereby define a second electrode surface; and

an ionically conductive fluid medium filling the cavity in intimate contact with the first electrode surface.

25. (Previously Presented) The lead of claim 24, wherein the second electrode surface area protrudes from the port.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously presented) The lead of claim 24, wherein the second electrode surface of the conductive structure has a surface area between approximately 0.1 square millimeters and 4.0 square millimeters.

28. (Previously presented) The lead of claim 24, wherein the first electrode surface of the conductive structure is approximately greater than or equal to approximately 10 square millimeters.

29. (Previously presented) The lead of claim 24, wherein the ionically conductive medium filling the cavity comprises a hydrogel.

30. (Previously presented) The lead of claim 24, wherein the ionically conductive medium filling the cavity comprises a saline solution.

31. (Previously presented) The lead of claim 24, wherein the first electrode surface of the conductive structure comprises platinum black particles.

32. (Previously presented) The lead of claim 24, wherein the first electrode surface of the conductive structure comprises an iridium-oxide.

33. (Previously presented) The lead of claim 24, wherein the first electrode surface of the conductive structure comprises a ruthenium-oxide.

34. (Previously presented) The lead of claim 24, wherein the first electrode surface of the conductive structure comprises titanium-nitride.

35. (Previously presented) The lead of claim 24, further comprising a steroid loaded MCRD formed about the insulative housing in proximity to the port.

36. (Previously Presented) The lead of claim 1 wherein the first electrode surface has a first surface area and the second electrode surface has a second surface area that is smaller than the first surface area.